

CHAPTER THREE

Management Area Direction

INTRODUCTION

Management areas define where differing kinds of resource and use opportunities are available to the public and where different management practices may be carried out. They are closely analogous to zones and zoning ordinances in county or city land-use plans. Management areas may not be contiguous geographically. A very important function of delineating a management area is to define spatially where differing types of resource-use opportunities are available to the public in each alternative. Management areas are delineated on the *management area maps* by alternative.

This chapter has two sections: **Management Area Categories**, which is a summary of management area characteristics, and **Management Area Direction**, which is a detailed description of each management area.

MANAGEMENT AREA CATEGORIES

The prescriptions are divided among eight categories and are the same categories used throughout the Rocky Mountain Region.

The summary section contains a brief description of each management area category and a table showing generally allowed activities. The table conveys what activities and outputs can generally be expected in these management areas. However, there are exceptions in some areas of the Forests or Grassland due to more detailed management direction contained in geographic areas or resource maps such as timber suitability or travel management strategy. For example, the table entry for management area 3.5 - Forested Flora and Fauna indicates that timber harvest is generally allowed. However, there are areas that have this allocation where timber harvest will not be allowed because it would not help accomplish management objectives or may cause unacceptable resource damage.

Category 1. Ecological processes such as fire, insect infestation, and disease are allowed to operate relatively free from the influence of humans. Diversity resulting from natural succession and disturbances predominates, and nonnative vegetation is rare. Users must be self-reliant and should expect low levels of contact with other people. Few, if any, human-made facilities are present. With rare exceptions, travel is nonmotorized. Typical area designations are wilderness and backcountry lands. A minor amount of motorized use may be allowed to restore desired conditions in core restoration areas. Prescription numbers and names within Category 1 are:

- 1.1 Wilderness
- 1.2 Recommended for Wilderness
- 1.3 Backcountry Recreation
- 1.41 Core Area Habitats - Existing
- 1.42 Core Area Habitats - Restoration
- 1.5 National Rivers System - Wild Rivers (both designated and eligible)

Table 3.1. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 1

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing ^a
1.1	Wilderness	No	No	Limited or No	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
1.2	Recommended for Wilderness	No	No	Limited or No	Available	No Lease by Decision
1.3	Backcountry Recreation	No	Some snowmobile	Yes	Available	Leaseable
1.41	Core Habitats - Existing	No	No	Limited	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
1.42	Core Habitats - Restoration	No	No	Limited	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
1.5	Wild Rivers	No	No	Limited	Withdrawn	Withdrawn

^aSee the leasing analysis in the *FEIS* for details.

Category 2. These areas provide for conservation of representative, or particularly rare and narrowly distributed, ecological settings or components. They help ensure conservation of ecosystems or ecosystem components that may provide important functions ensuring the overall sustainability of larger landscapes. Human influences on the ecological processes are limited to the degree possible, but are sometimes evident. Types of human use vary, but generally are not intensive. Travel is generally nonmotorized. Some of these areas help provide a "natural" benchmark to compare with areas that are intensively managed for a particular objective. The only prescription number and name within Category 2 is:

2.2 Research Natural Areas

Table 3.2. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 2

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
2.2	Research Natural Areas	No	No	Limited	Withdrawn if needed	Leaseable

Category 3. Ecological values are in balance with human occupancy and consideration is given to both. Resource management activities may occur, but natural ecological processes and resulting patterns will normally predominate. Although these areas are characterized by predominantly natural-appearing landscapes, an array of management tools may be used to restore or maintain relatively natural patterns of ecological process. This results in some evidence of human activities. Users expect to experience some isolation from the sights and sounds of people in a setting that offers some challenge and risk. Restrictions on motorized travel may vary from area to area or season to season. Prescription numbers and names are:

- 3.1 Special Interest Areas
- 3.21 Limited Use Areas
- 3.3 Backcountry Motorized Recreation
- 3.5 Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats
- 3.55 Corridors Connecting Core Areas
- 3.61 Prairie Woodlands

Table 3.3. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 3

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
3.1	Special Interest Area	No	Limited	Limited	Withdrawn if needed	Leaseable
3.21	Limited Use Areas	Limited	Yes	Limited	Available	No Lease by Decision or Leaseable
3.3	Backcountry Motorized Recreation	Limited	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable
3.5	Forested Flora and Fauna Habitats	Yes	Limited	Yes	Available	Leaseable
3.55	Corridors Connecting Core Areas	Limited	Limited	Yes	Withdrawn	Withdrawn
3.61	Prairie Woodlands	NA	Limited	Yes	Not Applicable	Leaseable

Category 4. Ecological values are managed to provide recreational use, but are maintained well within the levels necessary to safeguard overall ecological functioning systems. Resource use for other values is not emphasized and has little impact on ecological structure, function, or composition. Sights and sounds of people are expected, and may even be desired. Motorized transportation is common. Prescription numbers and names are:

- 4.2 Scenic Areas
- 4.3 Dispersed Recreation
- 4.4 National Rivers System - Recreation Rivers (both designated and eligible)

Table 3.4. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 4

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
4.2	Scenic Areas	Limited	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable
4.4	Recreation Rivers	Limited	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable

Category 5. These areas are primarily forested ecosystems that are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. Ecological conditions will be maintained, with emphasis on selected biological structures and compositions that consider the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use and activity, density of facilities and evidence of vegetation manipulation. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource uses and motorized transportation are both common. Prescription numbers and names are:

- 5.11 General Forest and Rangelands - Forest Vegetation Emphasis
- 5.13 Forest Products
- 5.31 Experimental Forest
- 5.5 Forest Products and Dispersed Recreation

Table 3.5. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 5

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
5.11	General Forest and Rangelands—Forest Vegetation Emphasis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable
5.13	Forest Products	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
5.31	Fraser Experimental Forest	Limited	Limited	Limited	Withdrawn	Leaseable
5.5	Forest Products and Dispersed Recreation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable

Category 6. These areas are primarily nonforested ecosystems that are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. Ecological conditions will be maintained, with emphasis on selected biological structures and compositions that consider the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use and activity, density of facilities and evidence of vegetation manipulation. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource uses are common. Motorized transportation is common. Prescription numbers and names are:

6.4 Mid-Composition - High Structure: Native Shortgrass Prairie Ecosystem

6.6 Mid-Composition - Low Structure: Grassland Resource Production

Table 3.6. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 6

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
6.4	Mid-Composition—High Structure: Native Shortgrass Prairie Ecosystem	N/A	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable	Leaseable
6.6	Mid-Composition—Low Structure: Grassland Resource Production	N/A	Yes	Yes	Not Applicable	Leaseable

Category 7. Public lands are intermingled with private lands to such an extent that ecosystem management objectives for National Forest System lands must be tempered by other landowners' uses and objectives. Human activities have altered the natural appearance of these landscapes in most areas on both the public and private lands. Sights and sounds of people predominate. Private land use is often residential. Resource use is not planned on a sustainable basis, but may occur in concert with surrounding private land values. Motorized transportation is common. The single prescription category is:

7.1 Intermix

Table 3.7. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 7

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
7.1	National Forest—Residential Intermix	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available	Not Analyzed

Category 8. Ecological conditions, including processes, are likely to be permanently altered by human activities to levels beyond those needed to maintain natural-appearing landscapes and ecological processes. These areas are generally small. Ecological values are protected where they affect the health and welfare of human occupancy. Areas such as mines or other concentrated uses are included in this category. Human activities are generally commercial in nature, and directly or indirectly provide jobs and income. Motorized transportation is common. Prescription numbers and names are:

- 8.21 Developed Recreation Complexes
- 8.22 Ski-Based Resorts - (Existing and Potential)
- 8.3 Designated Utility Corridors and Electronic Sites (Existing and Inventoried)

Table 3.8. Generally Allowed Activities in MA Category 8

Rx No	Prescription Name	ACTIVITIES ALLOWED				
		Timber Harvest	Motorized Recreation	Grazing	Locatable Minerals	Oil and Gas Leasing
8.21	Developed Recreation Complexes	Limited	Yes	No	Withdrawn	Leaseable
8.22	Ski-based Resorts	Limited	Yes	No	Withdrawn	Leaseable
8.3	Designated Utilities	Limited	Yes	Yes	Available	Leaseable

MANAGEMENT AREA DIRECTION

Each management area delineated on the map has a detailed management prescription to guide its management. The prescription specifies:

1. Management Area Theme: short description of the management emphasis for the area.
2. Management Area Desired Condition: further specifics to the forestwide goals.
3. Management Area Standards and Guidelines: standards and guidelines that apply to a particular management area in addition to, or in a more restrictive way than, the forestwide standards and guidelines. When there is a conflict, the more restrictive direction applies.

Management area direction is applied in addition to forestwide and geographic area direction. Where there is conflict, the more site-specific direction applies.

The following sections explain in detail each of the management area prescriptions.